

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended *inter alia* to call for the use of an infrared laser.

It is suggested, based on the reference to Wikipedia, that an infrared laser has a wavelength between 700 nanometers and one millimeter. It is further suggested that the reference to Yamamoto teaches the use of such a laser. However, in paragraph 13, the highest wavelength laser mentioned is a ruby laser which has a wavelength of 694 nanometers.

No other Yamamoto suggested laser has such a high wavelength as the ruby laser. Presumably, Figure 2 shows the lasers that are suggested for use by Yamamoto. The ones mentioned in paragraph 13 are set forth in English and the one just to the left of 620 is provided only in Japanese. It seems reasonable to conclude that the Japanese language just to the left of 620 refers to the ruby laser which has a wavelength under the infrared region. It is not clear that the graph shown in the figure goes beyond and into the infrared region. But, even if it does, infrared lasers are known. There is no suggestion in Yamamoto, however, to use a laser in the infrared region to expose a wafer.

Therefore, for at least this reason, claims 1 and 11 as amended should be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

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